

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough Office Action. The Examiner has finally rejected all claims. By this amendment, submitted as part of a Request for Continued Examination, claim 4 has been canceled and claims 1, 3, 10, and 11 have been narrowed to more specifically assert the scope and intent of the invention.

The Applicant invites reconsideration in view of amendments and the following arguments.

The Applicant observes that the Examiner has taken the position that the present invention, as originally claimed, is directed to a generalized simulation tool that represents itself as being able to use anything previously invented or that could be invented, though noting that dependent claim 3 is directed to living organisms. The prior art, in various combinations of Carpenter, Thalhammer-Reyero and Keeler, has been cited as representative of generalized simulation systems. By these amendments, it is believed that the claims now fall outside the purview of the prior art.

The Applicant submits that the present invention, particularly as now claimed in claims 1-3, 5-10, is directed to developing minimally complex simulations of living organisms. The present invention is not directed to generalizations of simulations of complex systems. As now claimed, the invention articulates that the nodes of interest are in a nested hierarchy of levels (i.e., where one level is a subset of a next level) representative of a living organism. Inherent in these claims is the concept of employing a minimally complex representation of a living system of interest. The minimally complex representation is the minimum number of nodes that compose a system of interest. These concepts are taught at page 4, lines 15-24 of the present specification. Also included in the claims as amended is the concept of homeostasis in a nested hierarchical structure. This is taught at page 4, lines 7-11. The concept of minimally complex representations of a system is clearly taught at page 2 lines 15-17. It is respectfully submitted that all claims now pending contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 11 has been rejected as not being supported by the Specification. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. In order to address the concerns of the

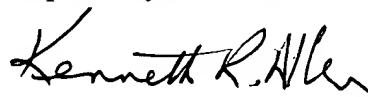
Examiner, claim 11 has been amended to more closely follow the language employed in the Specification. The concepts of claim 11 are clearly taught by the Specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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